

REMARKS/ ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendment and the following arguments are provided to impart precision to the claims, by more particularly pointing out the invention, rather than to avoid prior art.

Double Patenting

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-25 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,717,445.

Applicant has submitted a terminal disclaimer to overcome the double patenting rejection. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Disclosure Objections

The Examiner objected to the disclosure because of the following informalities: On line 14 of page 7, "a input" should be changed to -an input--.

The specification has been amended to overcome this objection.

The Examiner objected to the disclosure for not clearly describing a set of processors.

The specification has been amended to overcome this objection.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to the disclosure because claims 2, 4, 7, 20 and 21 because of the following informalities:

Claim 2, line 3, "a NMOS" should be changed to -an NMOS--.

Claim 4, line 2, "a NMOS" should be changed to -an NMOS--.

Claim 7, line 2, "a signal" should be changed to -the signal--.

Claim 20, line 3, "a NMOS" should be changed to -an NMOS--.

Claim 21, line 2, "a NMOS" should be changed to -an NMOS--.

The claims have been amended to correct these informalities.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 8, 13, 17 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 8, 13, and 17 have been amended to overcome these rejections.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 6-9, 11-19 and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,644,255 (hereinafter "Taylor").

Claim 1, as amended, includes a limitation of a voltage following circuit comprising a first amplifier coupled to a first transistor and a second amplifier coupled to a second transistor. Taylor does not disclose such a limitation, and as a result, claim 1 is not anticipated by Taylor.

More specifically, the bus line driver 202 disclosed by Taylor includes an input V_{IN} coupled to an inverter 401, whose output is coupled to the gates of an n-channel 403 and a p-channel 404 transistor. The transistors 403 and 404 are further coupled to an output V_{OUT} , and to two other transistors 203 and 204. The gates of the transistors 203 and 204 are coupled to the input V_{IN} .

The Examiner asserts that the two transistors 203 and 204 comprise a voltage following circuit as claimed in claim 1. However, as amended, the voltage following circuit of claim 1 comprises a first amplifier coupled to a first transistor and a second amplifier coupled to a second transistor. The bus line

driver 202 disclosed by Taylor does not include an amplifier. Further, the two transistors 203 and 204 are coupled only to the input V_{IN} and to the transistors 403 and 404. Therefore, Taylor does not disclose all the limitations of claim 1, and Taylor does not anticipate claim 1.

Claims 4 and 6-9 depend from claim 1 and therefore include all the limitations of claim 1. Since Taylor does not disclose all the limitations of claim 1, it follows that Taylor does not disclose all the limitations of claims 4 and 6-9, and that claims 4 and 6-9 are not anticipated by Taylor.

Claim 11, as amended, includes a limitation of generating an output signal to follow the voltage of an input signal including amplifying the input signal. As mentioned above regarding claim 1, Taylor does not disclose an amplifier. Therefore, Taylor does disclose amplifying an input signal, as in claim 11. As a result, Taylor does not disclose all the limitations of claim 11, and claim 11 is not anticipated by Taylor.

Claims 12-14 depend from claim 11 and therefore include all the limitations of claim 11. Since Taylor does not disclose all the limitations of claim 11, it follows that Taylor does not disclose all the limitations of claims 12-14, and that claims 12-14 are not anticipated by Taylor.

Claim 15 includes a limitation of means for generating an output signal to follow the voltage of an input signal including means for amplifying the input signal. As mentioned above regarding claim 11, Taylor does not disclose amplifying an input signal. Therefore, claim 15 is also not anticipated by Taylor.

Claims 16-18 depend from claim 15 and therefore include all the limitations of claim 15. Since Taylor does not disclose all the limitations of claim 15, it follows that Taylor does not disclose all the limitations of claims 16-18, and that claims 16-18 are not anticipated by Taylor.

Claim 19 includes a limitation similar to the one discussed above regarding claim 1. As a result, since claim 1 is not anticipated by Taylor because Taylor does not disclose all the limitations of claim 1, claim 19 is also not anticipated by Taylor.

Claim 21 depends from claim 19 and therefore include all the limitations of claim 19. Since Taylor does not disclose all the limitations of claim 19, it follows that Taylor does not disclose all the limitations of claim 21, and that claim 21 is not anticipated by Taylor.

Claim 22 includes a limitation of a set of processors to generate an output signal to follow the voltage of an input signal and amplify the input signal. As mentioned above regarding claim 11, Taylor does not disclose amplification. Therefore, claim 22 is not anticipated by Taylor.

Claims 23-25 depend from claim 22 and therefore include all the limitations of claim 22. Since Taylor does not disclose all the limitations of claim 22, it follows that Taylor does not disclose all the limitations of claims 23-25, and that claims 23-25 are not anticipated by Taylor.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 3, and 20 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Arlen M. Hartounian at (408) 720-8300.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: 9/1/04



Arlen M. Hartounian
Reg. No. 52,997

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300